

Message Text

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17

ACTION INR-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01

H-03 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-02

XMB-07 AGR-20 OPIC-12 SWF-02 ARA-16 DLOS-07 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /280 W
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R 220714Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4227

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0839

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, LT, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN - LESOTHO RELATIONS

REF: A. TEHRAN 5681 (NOTAL) B. TEHRAN 3512 (NOTAL)

1. COMPARED WITH IRANIAN AID VENTURES ELSEWHERE
(REFTEL A), ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO SEEMS TO HAVE
GOTTEN SLOW START. RESULTS OF VISIT BY IRANIAN
MISSION TO LESOTHO MAY 1 - MAY 13 INCONCLUSIVE
AND NO OUTCOME YET ANNOUNCED BY LESOTHO
GOVERNMENT. MISSION WAS LED BY IRANIAN
DEPUTY MIN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AND EMPHASIS LARGELY AGRICULTURAL ALTHOUGH
MAJOR GENERAL JA'AFARI (REFTEL B) INCLUDED TO
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ADVISE LESOTHO POLICE.

2. MISSION SEEMS TO HAVE LARGELY CONCENTRATED ON GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT LESOTHO. ONE PROPOSAL IN WHICH IRANIANS SHOWED INTEREST WAS LOAN TO FARMERS FOR SEED AND FERTILIZER. THEY WANTED FARMERS TO SECURE LOANS WITH LAND BUT THIS IMPOSSIBLE UNDER LESOTHOS COMMON-LAND-HOLDING SYSTEM. GOL RELUCTANT TO GUARANTEE LOANS ITSELF. NO INTEREST RATES DISCUSSED.

3. MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN LESOTHOS' RELATIONS WITH IRAN THAT MOOKI MOLAPO, LESOTHOS' CURRENT UN AMBASSADOR, THAT HE WILL BE OPENING UP NEW LESOTHO EMBASSY IN TEHRAN, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS AUGUST. THIS NOT YET ANNOUNCED BY GOL. MOLAPO CURRENTLY IS HEADING LESOTHO'S DELEGATION TO LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS; NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AS TO WHO WILL REPLACE HIM IN N.Y.

4. IT DOUBTFUL THAT LESOTHO WILL BE ABLE MAINTAIN MORE THAN ONE DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN MIDDLE EAST, SO CHOICE OF IRAN INDICATES GOL PINNING ITS GREATER HOPES ON IRAN FOR PETROLEUM AND OTHER ASSISTANCE, BUT MOLAPO LIKELY TO BE ACCREDITED TO ARAB COUNTRIES AS WELL. MOLAPO IS NOT A VERY ABLE MAN. HE IS BEST KNOWN FOR FIERY ANTI-SOUTH AFRICA SPEECHES IN UN WHICH COINCIDE WITH LESOTHO POLICY IN PRINCIPLE BUT NOT IN TONE. IT IS POSSIBLE THIS LATTER CHARACTERISTIC ACCOUNTS IN PART FOR HIS TRANSFER TO TEHRAN.
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